

# Police arrest four JMB suspects

## Seize bombs, gun, ammo in Bagerhat

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers picked up four suspected operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat early yesterday.

The arrestees are Akash Mollah alias Babu, 19, of Kachua, Habibullah Sheikh, 19, Kabirullah Faraji, 26, and Mizanur Rahman Hawladar, 28, of Pirojpur Sadar, Nazirpur, and Mathbaria upazilas.

A joint team of police and detectives raided a farmhouse of one Safayet Sheikh at Khalishkhal village around 2:30am and rounded up the four, reports a correspondent in Bagerhat quoting police officials.

The team also seized a revolver, two bullets, seven empty bullet casings, five crude bombs, five cell phones and a computer from there, said police.

Pankaj Chandra Roy, Bagerhat superintendent of police, said law enforcers raided the farmhouse on information that some 12 JMB men would have a secret meeting there.

As the police team reached the area, suspected militants hurled crude bombs at cops, forcing them to retaliate with gunshots, the SP added.

A little later, law enforcers were able to arrest the four when they were trying to flee the area.

Three cops were hurt during the

raid. Police were communicating with other law enforcement agencies to know about the arrestees' criminal records, said Pankaj.

**TWO 'PICKED UP EARLIER'**

Fathers of Kabirullah and Habibullah alleged that a team of Bagerhat police picked up their sons from Pirojpur town around 3:00am on October 14, reports our Pirojpur correspondent.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, they said they went to Pirojpur Sadar Police Station on the same day to file general diaries, but police refused to record G.Ds.

Habibullah's father Abdul Hai, a tile fitter, said his son had been staying at a mess in Rajarhat of Pirojpur town for around three months. Riding on eight minibuses, a team of uniformed cops went to the mess and picked up Habibullah.

An SSC examinee of Kiamuddin High School in the town, Habibullah used to run a computer service centre, said Hai, adding that his son did not hang out in bad company.

Kabirullah's father Lokman Faraji lives in a rented house in CO Office area of Pirojpur town. He said law enforcers arrested his son from there.

The arrestee passed Dakhil exams from Pirojpur Fazil Madrasha around eight years ago. He is an assistant of a lawyer at Pirojpur Judge's Court.



The homemade bombs, a gun and ammunition, and books seized by law enforcers from the possession of four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh suspects, left, arrested yesterday at Kachua upazila in Bagerhat.

PHOTO: STAR

# No uniformity in prices

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a chaotic situation. And the regrettable thing is that there is none to address this issue," he said, referring to varied prices of admission forms.

Contacted, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said public universities are fully autonomous and they fix the prices of admission forms on their own.

But such varied prices don't encourage students, rather they feel disappointed, he said.

"We often meet them [the authorities of the universities] and discuss many issues with them. We don't want to interfere in their affairs. We want the universities to run independently and set some good examples," he told The Daily Star.

"We hope they would set a reasonable price [for admission forms], considering the interest of the students," Nahid added.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), the statutory apex body for higher education, doesn't have any guidelines on setting prices of admission forms.

Asked whether it will take any step in this regard, UGC Member Prof Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah said the commission cannot interfere in the activities of public universities as they are run in line with their own rules.

This issue, however, warrants attention. "Our Chairman is now

abroad. I will discuss the matter with him upon his return," he told The Daily Star on Monday.

But it would not be possible to do anything this year, as many universities have already started the admission process, said the UGC member. "We will think how to address the issue next year."

**DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES, DIFFERENT PRICES**

The price of an admission form of any unit at Dhaka University is Tk 350, which has remained unchanged for the last several years.

The university conducts admission tests under five units for 80 departments and 11 institutes.

Though the number of departments is less than that of the DU, Chittagong University holds admission tests under 10 units for 43 departments and two institutes. Each form of the units costs Tk 475 without service charge.

Rajshahi University conducts tests under nine units for 58 departments, but the prices of admission forms of the units are different.

The price of a form under "A" unit is Tk 770 while that of one under "B" unit is Tk 330. The university charges Tk 825 for a form under "E" unit.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin said they fix prices of forms on the basis of the number of departments under a unit.

"The more departments a unit has, the pricier its forms are," he noted.

### PRICES OF ADMISSION FORMS

Dhaka University	Tk 350
Chittagong University	Tk 475
Rajshahi University	Tk 330-825
Jahangirnagar University	Tk 350-550
Jagannath University	Tk 404-505
Buet	Tk 600-700
Bangladesh Agricultural University	Tk 700
Cuet	Tk 900-1000
Ruet	Tk 800-900
Kuet	Tk 800
BSMRSTU, Gopalganj	Tk 800
Bangladesh Textile University	Tk 900
Barisal University	Tk 625
PSTU	Tk 650
SUST	Tk 800-900

Prof Mizanuddin mentioned that the expenses for holding tests go up if a unit has a higher number of departments.

This is because they need to engage invigilators and print question papers as per the number of applicants. And for some units, they need to rent exam halls from other institutions, he

said.

When told that the DU also rents exam halls, he declined to comment, saying he didn't have enough admission-related information on the DU.

The situation at Jahangirnagar University is similar to that of the RU.

There are eight units at the JU. The price of each admission form of five units is Tk 550, and that of three other units is Tk 350 each.

The prices of admission forms of engineering universities are higher.

For example, students wishing to get admitted to Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) need to pay Tk 1,000 for a form of "Kha" unit and Tk 900 for that of "Ka" unit. The university holds admission tests under the two units.

Cuet VC Prof Mohammad Rafiqul Alam said the university's admission committee has fixed the rates, considering all the aspects.

"Apart from giving honorarium to teachers, we rent apparatus and furniture such as chairs and benches for holding tests. These are the main reasons for setting such prices for admission forms," he told The Daily Star.

But Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh have adopted a system a bit different from others.

The Kuet and the BAU prepare merit lists based on applicants' SSC and HSC results, and allow 10,000

and 12,000 candidates respectively to sit for admission tests.

Prof Tarapada Bhowmick, head of the Kuet admission committee, said they adopted the system as the university has seating arrangements for up to 10,000 applicants.

He replied in the negative when asked whether the admission seekers, who would fail to sit for tests, would get back their money.

Asked, UGC Member Prof Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah termed the practice "unethical and unacceptable".

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology recently reduced the prices of admission forms for 2016-17 academic session following a week-long agitation by students.

On October 19, the SUST authorities slashed the price of each form of "A" and "B1" units to Tk 800 from Tk 1,000 and that of "B2" unit to Tk 900 from Tk 1,200.

According to the UGC guidelines, the universities are supposed to deposit with the university funds 40 percent of the earnings from sales of admission forms, and spend the rest on conducting tests.

**"IT'S UNFAIR"**

Several admission seekers told this newspaper that they have to spend a substantial amount of money for buying admission forms as some universities have set high prices for those.

"Since university admission tests

see stiff competition, buying forms for only one or two universities will be very unwise ... I have bought admission forms of several universities. For that, I had to spend Tk 4,500," said Sourav Hasan, a candidate.

Noted educationist Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam finds no rationale behind setting high prices for admission forms.

"It is unfair to charge students such a big amount of money. I protest it."

He pointed out that the DU can be an example for other universities, as it has been able to keep the price of forms unchanged for years though it also rents halls from other institutions to accommodate a huge number of admission seekers.

**MAJOR EARNINGS FOR UNIVERSITIES**

Every year, public universities earn a huge amount of money from the sale of admission forms, and that's why they don't want to bring any change to the admission system, say education ministry officials.

Prof Hasibur Rashid, chief of online admission committee of the DU, said the university earned Tk 10.39 crore from the sale of 2.97 lakh forms this year.

Of the Tk 350 earned from the sale of each form, Tk 300 goes to the dean's office, Tk 20 to the bank involved in the admission process, and the remaining Tk 30 to the admission committee for admission-related expenses, he added.



Law enforcers seize hilsa caught from the Padma during a ban on Monday in Rajshahi. Even though hilsa in Rajshahi had been scarce in recent times, the drive and its success in seizing the national fish hint that the ban to protect hilsa breeding is working to some extent.

PHOTO: STAR

# Rajshahi raids surprise many

FROM PAGE 1

the silver fish does not disappear again, the local administration is carrying out raids at several places of the district amid the ongoing ban.

"We noticed the revival of hilsa in the Padma from last year. We are conducting raids to prevent fishermen from catching the fish amid the ban," said Subash Chandra Saha, district fisheries officer.

The government imposed a country-wide ban on fishing, selling, hoarding and transport of hilsa from October 12 to November 2.

Defying the ban, a section of fishermen in Bagha, Charghat, Rajshahi sadar and Godagari upazilas, however, are fishing hilsa with current nets in the Padma.

The silver fish is being sold in remote areas of the city and other places at Tk 850 per kg, reports our correspondent quoting locals.

On Monday, a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Samar Kumar Pal seized 40kg of hilsa worth Tk 10,000 and 4,000 meters of current nets worth Tk 2.5 lakh from five places of the Padma river in Rajshahi.

Later, the nets were set on fire on the river bank and the fish was distributed among orphans of Chhotomoni Nibash

near Bornali intersection and Shishu Paribar at Baya, said Samar.

During the four-hour drive, the mobile court drove some 27 kilometres from Bottoli to Godagari in a motorboat and recovered the current nets with the fish.

The fishermen could not be identified as no one came to claim the nets.

Samar said fishermen were netting hilsa using a new tactic. They tie two small plastic containers at the corners of the long nets and throw them into the Padma water.

"It is quite difficult to identify the nets as you can only see the containers, not the nets from far," he said.

Subash also said they so far launched 11 mobile court drives this season in which 137kgs of hilsa and 1,35,775 metres of nets worth Tk 23.85 lakh were seized. In most of the cases, those responsible could not be identified.

Meanwhile, many locals, talking to The Daily Star, expressed their surprise at the recovery of such a huge quantity of hilsa from Rajshahi which had seen a dearth of hilsa in the past.

**ALLEGATION AGAINST A BARISAL UNO**

The Barisal district administration has opened an investigation into an allega-

tion that an Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) took hilsa to her home, which were seized during mobile court raids.

The UNO rejected the allegation.

Babuganj Upazila Women Vice Chairman Ishrat Jahan Tapashi told our Barisal correspondent that following raids on October 21-23, her neighbour, UNO Afroza Begum Parul, stored a huge quantity of fish in her refrigerator. She even distributed some among her relatives.

Tapashi said she also informed the deputy commissioner of the matter. "Deputy Commissioner Gazi Mohammad Saifuzzaman asked me to prove the allegation," she said.

"I had gone to the UNO's residence and saw some people trying to take two bags of hilsa from there. As I tried to see what was in there, a scuffle took place and all the fish got scattered on the floor."

Later, the UNO called some staff of a local orphanage and gave them the fish to distribute those among orphans, she added.

The local administration formed a committee, headed by Additional District Magistrate Zakir Hossain, to investigate the incident.

Contacted, the UNO refuted the

allegation, saying Tapashi was making a false allegation against her over a personal enmity.

"I had just returned home with the seized fish and informed the local orphanage to come and take the fish. However, Tapashi came from nowhere and started to chant slogans against me."

"At one point, she locked the main gate of my house from outside," she said, adding that she informed the higher authorities of the matter.

A few months ago, Parul served a notice upon Tapashi to vacate her house, claiming that she was living there illegally.

Additional District Magistrate Zakir Hossain said Tapashi was asked to file a written complaint against the UNO, which she did not.

He also said the matter seemed to be a result of an enmity between the two.

Meanwhile in Chandpur, 4 boys, aged between 12 and 14, were detained for netting hilsa in the Meghna river in Rajshwar area, reports our Chandpur correspondent.

Shafiqur Rahman, district fisheries officer, said they released the boys after taking Tk 2,000 from each of their guardians in fine.

# 2 missing boys found dead

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Ahmed, 7 -- were both students of Chintamani Government Primary School in the upazila.

Police quoting family members and locals said the boys went missing following their fishing trip on Monday afternoon to a nearby haor (wetland) in their village home Chintamani with

their father, Sadir Ahmed of the same village.

Family members of the children started looking for them as their father did not return home with them after the sunset. They informed the police after finding the dead children, with a number of stab wounds and bruises all over their bodies, beside a ditch

adjoining the haor.

Police recovered and sent the bodies of the children to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy on Tuesday morning, said police.

Anwarul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Osmani Nagar Police Station, said the wounds on the victims' bodies might have been caused

by both blunt objects and sharp weapons.

Quoting the boys' mother, Nurbi Begum, the inspector said she and other family members suspect the father, Sadir Ahmed, might have run away after killing the boys.

Filing of a case in this connection is still underway, he added.